

INDIVIDUALLY SPECIFYING MESSAGE OUTPUT ATTRIBUTES IN A MESSAGING
SYSTEM

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is related to the following co-pending applications, which are filed on even date herewith and incorporated herein by reference:

(1) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/915,974, ^{still}
^{pending} ~~Attorney~~
~~Docket No. AUS920010391US1~~;

(2) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/915,540, ^{still}
^{pending} ~~Attorney~~
~~Docket No. AUS920010392US1~~;

(3) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/915,465, ^{still}
^{pending} ~~Attorney~~
~~Docket No. AUS920010393US1~~;

(4) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/915,458, ^{still}
^{pending} ~~Attorney~~
~~Docket No. AUS920010394US1~~;

(5) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/915,490, ^{still}
^{pending} ~~Attorney~~
~~Docket No. AUS920010396US1~~;

(6) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/915,511, ^{still}
^{pending} ~~Attorney~~
~~Docket No. AUS920010528US1~~; and

(7) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/915,450, ^{still}
~~Attorney~~

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pending
~~Docket No. AUS920010553US1~~

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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1. Technical Field:

The present invention relates in general to electronic communications and, in particular, to specifying messaging outputs. Still more particularly, the present invention relates to assigning distinguishable output attributes to each message according to each receiving user's preferences.

2. Description of the Related Art:

As the Internet and telephony expand, the ease of communications between individuals in different locations continues to expand as well. One type of electronic communication is supported by messaging which includes the use of computer systems and data communication equipment to convey messages from one person to another, as by e-mail, voice mail, instant messaging, or fax.

While e-mail has already expanded into nearly every facet of the business world, other types of messaging continue to forge into use. For example, instant messaging systems are typically utilized in the context of an Internet-supported application that transfers text between multiple Internet users in real time.